



# ESRC Doctoral Training Centre +3 Studentship: Investigating public engagement with mineral extraction: the role of place attachment and environmental values Ref: 929

## About the award

The [College of Life and Environmental Sciences](#) at the University of Exeter is pleased to offer a +3 studentship funded by the ESRC and the British Geological Survey as part of the Environment, Energy and Resilience interdisciplinary pathway of the [South West Doctoral Training Centre](#) for entry in 2012/13. Successful applicants will benefit from working within a lively research environment within [Geography \(Streatham Campus, Exeter\)](#) at the College of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Exeter.

### Supervisors

[Professor Patrick Devine-Wright](#) (University of Exeter) [p.g.devine-wright@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:p.g.devine-wright@exeter.ac.uk)

[Professor Alan Lewis](#) (University of Bath) [a.lewis@bath.ac.uk](mailto:a.lewis@bath.ac.uk)

With additional supervision from the British Geological Survey through Ms Emma Bee and Mr Andrew Bloodworth

### The Consortium

The Universities of Bristol, Exeter and Bath have created the SWDTC, which draws together the established research excellence of more than 770 academic and research staff at the three institutions. The SWDTC has been accredited by the ESRC and the collaboration at the heart of it was recognised as adding value to the content and delivery of training.

### Environment, Energy and Resilience

This pathway explores the interface between environment, energy and the security through engaging the latest critical thinking on risk management, public regulation, policy studies, economics and the environmental sciences. It will train social science researchers who understand the impacts of living with global environmental change, the uncertainties of environmental change for energy and food security, and the diverse responses needed to foster behaviours, practices and policies that promote sustainability and resilience.

### Project Description

Over the past 25 years, increased levels of protest by local communities (sometimes known as NIMBYism – Not In My Back Yard) coupled with the growth of articulate and media-wise single-issue campaign groups, has increased the time and risks associated with obtaining a license to operate for mineral extraction. This, in turn, imposes considerable additional costs on both industry and regulators, and may result in sub-optimal environmental decision-making by the spatial planning system. A sophisticated



understanding of public engagement with mineral extraction would be of considerable value to policy makers and industry in informing development of UK spatial planning policy for mineral supply. However, there is a relative dearth of research in this area. This PhD proposal aims to deepen understanding of public engagement with mineral extraction by focusing upon two key factors, namely place attachment and environmental values. A mixed method, case study approach will be adopted, to capture public beliefs using qualitative and quantitative methods such as in-depth interviews and questionnaire surveys. The location of the case study will be selected in consultation with the British Geological Survey (BGS) - the world's oldest national geological survey and the United Kingdom's premier centre for earth science information and expertise. The outcome of the research will be a better understanding of the conceptual aspects underlying public engagement with mineral extraction, which will have positive applied benefits for the BGS as well as wider stakeholders such as industry and policy-makers.

The successful candidate will be based at the University of Exeter, and will travel to the University of Bath and to Nottingham, where the British Geological Survey is based, as appropriate.

#### **Value of award**

A studentship will cover UK/EU fees and an annual Research Council maintenance grant (in 2011/12 this was £13,590 for full-time students, pro rata for part-time students) for up to three years.

#### **Academic entry requirements**

Students must have a strong first degree (at least an Upper Second Class Honours or equivalent) in a social science or relevant discipline and have (or be about to complete) a Master degree in a humanities or social science discipline, or in a programme with a large component of relevance to the project. Knowledge of mineral extraction, academic literature on place attachment and NIMBYism is desirable, as is previous research experience using a mixed-method approach.

#### **Residency entry requirements**

Home students receive a full ESRC studentship; EU students who have not been resident in the UK for the last three years before the start of their studentship are eligible for a fees-only award.

If you are unsure of your eligibility, you can check the [ESRC eligibility requirements](#).

## **Summary**

<b>Application deadline:</b>	17th February 2012
<b>Number of awards:</b>	1
<b>Value:</b>	£13,590 plus UK/EU tuition fees for eligible students



**British  
Geological Survey**  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Applied geoscience for our  
changing Earth

Duration of award:

per year

Contact: CLES Postgraduate Research Team

[cles-studentships@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:cles-studentships@exeter.ac.uk)

## How to apply

*Please complete an [online 'Funding Application' web form](#).*

You will need to submit some personal details and upload the following documents (preferred format for uploaded files is .pdf and preferred filename should start with your last name):

- CV
- Covering letter (outlining your academic interests and knowledge, prior research experience and reasons for wishing to undertake this project).
- Transcript (this should be an interim transcript if you are still studying)

Informal enquiries can be made to [cles-studentships@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:cles-studentships@exeter.ac.uk). The closing date for applications is midnight Friday 17 February 2012.